

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 160 206

PS 010 117

TITLE Foster Family Services: Recommendations for Improvements. Report 77-DDS-01.
 INSTITUTION Alaska State Dept. of Health and Social Services, Juneau. Div. of Social Services.
 PUB DATE Jul 77
 NOTE 37p.
 EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.83 HC-\$2.06 Plus Postage.
 DESCRIPTORS *Alaska Natives; Case Records; Certification; Child Advocacy; *Child Welfare; Community Involvement; Cultural Awareness; Educational Programs; Financial Support; *Foster Children; Foster Family; Foster Homes; Insurance Programs; Interagency Coordination; Parent Associations; Parent Education; Placement; Staff Role; State Agencies; *State Standards; *Systems Development
 IDENTIFIERS Alaska

ABSTRACT

This Task Force Report generates 5 general themes for improving the state foster care system (all geared to improving the functioning of the natural family and using foster care as a temporary tool to facilitate that process) and makes specific recommendations which deal with these themes. The 5 themes are: (1) during crisis situations, a child should be placed in a family compatible to the child's own family; (2) the foster care system should recognize, affirm and integrate differing cultural values if it is to provide effective services to its clients; (3) there must be sufficient numbers of staff persons to carry out the responsibilities for providing quality foster care; (4) foster parents are a key component in the foster care system and should be helped to meet their responsibilities; and (5) lines of jurisdiction and responsibility must be drawn among agencies providing foster care to promote clarity and not confusion within the foster care system. Recommendations are made in areas such as treatment planning, foster parent training, community involvement, liability insurance, case recording, recruiting of native foster homes, etc. Appendices include a description of the methodology, an outline of the contents of training manuals for foster parents and natural parents, and a method of calculating foster care rates. (SE)

 * Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
 * from the original document. *

ED160206

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Health and Social Services

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.



FOSTER FAMILY SERVICES

Recomendations for Improvements

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

**F. Bruce
Steadman**

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND
USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

PS010117

FOSTER FAMILY SERVICES IN ALASKA
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

PRESENTED TO: SAM J. GRANATO
DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

PREPARED BY: TASK FORCE ON
FOSTER FAMILY SERVICES

DATE: JULY, 1977

The Task Force on Foster Family Services was established in the late summer of 1976. The charge to the Task Force is contained in a letter from Sam J. Granato, Director, Division of Social Services a copy of which may be found in Appendix A. Essentially the charge was to evaluate the foster family services program of the Division and to make recommendations for improving the program.

MEMBERS
FOSTER FAMILY SERVICES TASK FORCE

CHAIRPERSON

Melissa Middleton (1,2), Family Connection, Anchorage

MEMBERS

Trish Adkins, Hope Cottage, Anchorage
James Allen, Division of Public Health, Anchorage
Peggy Bergsrud, Foster Parent, Anchorage
Sally Booher (1), Alaska Children's Services, Anchorage
Ella Craig, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anchorage
Bonnie Darnell, Foster Parent, Eagle River (Resigned)
Cecelia Esparza (1), Division of Social Services, Bethel
Jeanette Fox (1), Foster Parent, Nome and Juneau
Bob Gin, Action Group for the Deaf, Anchorage
Mary Globig (1,2), Division of Social Services, Fairbanks
Major Donald Greenhaulgh, Fort Wainwright
Ken Grieser, Department of Education, Juneau
Faye Guthrie, Division of Social Services, Anchorage
Connie Hansen (1), Division of Social Services, Juneau
Patricia Hermes, Division of Social Services, Anchorage
Brenda Higgins, Anchorage Community Mental Health Center, Anchorage
Margaret Holland, Office of Planning & Research, Juneau
Vita Keel, Alaska Native Medical Center, Anchorage
Joan Klemann (1), Foster Parent, Fairbanks
Ruth Liebing, Catholic Social Services, Anchorage
Dan Maciak (1,2), Division of Social Services, Ketchikan
Betsey McGuire, Office of Child Advocacy, Juneau
Honorable Mike Miller, State Representative, Juneau
Barbara Pighin, Cook Inlet Native Association, Anchorage
Michael Price, Division of Social Services, Bethel
Martha Rasmussen (1), Anchorage Health Department, Anchorage
John Reese, Attorney, Anchorage
Mildred Richards (1), Foster Parent, Juneau
Honorable Lisa Rudd, State Representative, Anchorage
Jann Sabo (1), Division of Social Services, Nome
DeeAnn Schofield, Division of Social Services, Juneau
Mildred Short (1), Foster Parent, Bethel
Dr. David Spence, Division of Public Health, Juneau
Miriam Sumner (1), Foster Parent, Anchorage
Alan Taylor, Alaska Association for Retarded Children, Juneau
Patricia Tennant (1), Foster Parent, Ketchikan
Philip Volland, Alaska Legal Services, Anchorage
Dee Walters (1), Cook Inlet Native Association, Anchorage
Margaret Wolfe, Anchorage HEP, Anchorage

CONSULTANTS

John J. Downey, Department of Health, Education & Welfare, Seattle
Beatrice Garrett, U. S. Children's Bureau, Washington D. C.
Beverly Stubbee, American Public Welfare Association, Washington D. C.
Enid Welling, Department of Health, Education & Welfare, Seattle

COORDINATOR OF TASK FORCE

Ed Smith, Division of Social Services, Juneau

1. Steering Council
2. Writing Team

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
TASK FORCE REPORT	2
RECOMMENDATIONS	5
A. Native Children in Foster Care	7
B. Treatment Planning	7
C. Case Recording	9
D. Staff	10
E. Community Involvement	11
F. Recruiting Native Foster Homes	12
G. Recognition of Foster Parents	12
H. Foster Parent Training	13
I. Manuals	14
J. Liability Insurance	15
K. Support of Foster Parent Associations	15
L. 24 Availability to Foster Parents	17
M. Foster Care Rates	17
N. Foster Care Rates for Relatives	18
O. Special Financial Arrangements	19
P. Licensing	19
Q. Inter-Agency Cooperation	20
CONCLUSION	23
APPENDIX	27
A. Letter of Appointment	29
B. Methodology	31
C. Contents of Manuals for Foster Parents and Natural Parents	35
D. Foster Care Rates Determined by Modified Delaware Method for April, 1977	39

INTRODUCTION

There has recently been a growing nationwide awareness that serious deficiencies exist in the system which provides foster family services. Too many children have entered the system and many of these children have stayed too long at too great a cost. Furthermore, there have been indications that intervention by the state in the lives of children and their families has not always produced positive outcomes.

The Director of the Division of Social Services prudently saw the urgent need for wide sweeping changes in the system. In response to this need, he established the Foster Family Services Task Force. The charge to the Task Force was to produce a grassroots assessment of the Division's foster care program and to make specific recommendations for improvement.

In keeping with the need for a grassroots assessment, the Director invited people to become Task Force members who represented a wide range of backgrounds and interests -- bush and urban people, Native and non-Native, foster parents and foster care providers, private agencies, Legislators, and Division staff. People living in each of the Division's six regions participated, and after the initial full Task Force meeting, they sought extensive input from others in their region regarding necessary improvements in the foster care system. While at times cumbersome, the results of this process were three fold: the assessment and recommendations expressed in this report are broadly-based and represent the consensus of many opinions from around the State; people outside of the State social services system and system representatives worked together constructively to search for solutions to problems plaguing foster care services and foster parents worked diligently to ensure that their views and feelings were heard and represented in the Task Force recommendations.

Since September of 1976 the Task Force studied vast amounts of information generated by sub-committees around the State. This resulted in the identification and analysis of over two dozen problem areas. During this process, the Task Force narrowed the scope of its assignment and limited the recommendations accordingly.

In its initial stages the Task Force relied heavily for the necessary framework on American Public Welfare Association (APWA) "Standards for Foster Family Services Systems". For additional information about methodology and the names of those participating on regional sub-committees please refer to Appendix C.

This report delineates the changes which, if implemented, will provide for the delivery of adequate foster family services.

TASK FORCE REPORT

The purpose of foster family care is to preserve and improve the functioning of the natural family system, utilizing foster care as a temporary tool to facilitate that process. Thus, the focus of the services is on two interdependent goals: assisting the parents to restore family functioning which will allow the child's return; and assisting the child to minimize the harmful effects of separation and maximize growth potential while in placement.

The Task Force has expressed general themes and specific recommendations which will move the current foster care system toward these two interdependent goals. The following themes are the underpinnings for the specific recommendations and are expressions of improvements that must be made in the various components which comprise the total foster care system.

First, if a crisis occurs that requires placement of a child outside of his own family, then placement is made in a family compatible with the child's own family where the child will have opportunities for cultural, emotional, social, intellectual, and physical growth. The period of separation between the parents and the child is to be as short as possible. If all attempts have been made to place the child back home and that option is not possible, then the child has the right to a permanent plan and to placement in a permanent, stable environment most suitable to his/her needs.

Second, we live in a culturally diverse state where Native Alaskans represent 17% of the State's population, and Native children represent 72% of all children in foster care. With this in mind, it becomes imperative that the foster care system recognize, affirm and integrate differing cultural values if it is to provide effective services to its clients. This process recognizes the importance of maintaining and strengthening cultural identity while interacting with the majority culture. The ramifications of this process are enormous and change must occur at all levels of the foster care system -- recruitment of Native foster homes, training and recruitment of staff, delivery of casework services to Native children and families.

Third, there must be sufficient numbers of staff to carry out the responsibilities for providing quality foster care. These staff must offer the consistency yet flexibility necessary to manage the foster care system and to meet the casework needs of the foster child and his/her family. This critical quality is encouraged by staff having clear lines of responsibility, manageable caseloads, and training in all aspects of the foster care services.

Fourth, foster parents are a key component of the system. To meet their responsibility, foster parents must be given adequate training, must be included in the development and achievement of the treatment plan, must be included regularly in policy decisions effecting the foster care system, and must be given adequate reimbursement and legal coverage for their services.

Fifth, the Division of Social Services alone cannot carry out its responsibilities for foster care. Lines of jurisdiction and responsibility must be drawn among agencies providing foster care to promote clarity and not

confusion within the foster care system. Foster care services must be coordinated with other support services to ensure that the most complete care possible is given. And, foster care staff should involve local communities in developing and improving foster care services.

What follows are specific recommendations which carry out the thoughts expressed in these themes. Although all of the recommendations are equally important and each has equivalent priority, their order of presentation does reflect the importance that the Task Force attached to improved treatment planning and the striking fact that the majority of children in foster care are from a Native culture.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. NATIVE CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Problem

72% of all children currently in Division foster homes are from a Native culture. These children are served by a delivery system that is fundamentally non-Native in assumptions, philosophy, design, approaches, and methodology. To the extent that the system is incompatible with Native cultures, problems exist for Native children in foster care.

The Task Force recognizes both that a significant and far reaching problem exists and that little is known anywhere about modifying the delivery of foster care services so that they will simultaneously benefit Native children while respecting and preserving their cultures.

Recommendation

By September, 1977 the Division shall initiate a review of this issue and consult with Native resource people so that the Division's delivery of foster care services, training and recruitment of staff and foster parents, and treatment approaches respect and preserve the culture of the majority of the children under care.

B. TREATMENT PLANNING

Problem

There is inconsistent planning for children in foster care which often results in children remaining in foster care longer than is necessary.

Recommendations

By July, 1978 the Division shall establish policies which enable the following recommendations to be carried out.

- I. The Task Force endorses the establishment by the Division of a Management Information System and further recommends that the Division utilize this system for implementation of a periodic, mandatory review of all foster children in placement.
- II. The Task Force endorses the direction of the Division in the pilot program being conducted in Anchorage which places an emphasis on moving foster children to a permanent setting.
- III. The caseworker shall enlist the aid of the natural parents, foster parents, and when age-appropriate the child in formulating a time specific plan for the child's placement.

IV. During the initial 30 day intake period, the following activities shall occur with consideration given to the child remaining in the natural home:

- A. A study of the family situation resulting in a tentative diagnosis of that situation;
- B. A decision about what support services are necessary to help the family;
- C. A decision whether to remove the child; and
- D. An initial plan agreed on by the worker, the natural parents, and the child when appropriate.

If a decision is made to remove the child then the following additional activities shall occur:

- E. The selection of a placement option and the reasons for that decision; and
- F. The preparation for and completion of the placement.

V. The decisions, commitments, and time frames agreed upon by all parties during the initial 30 day intake period shall be recorded in detail. Natural parents shall be urged to write in their own hand their decisions, commitments and time frames for improving conditions which will allow the child to return to his/her family.

VI. Within the first three months there shall be a review of the tentative diagnosis and initial commitments made with the parents and child when appropriate. At this time decisions shall be made regarding the activities or future activities which will lead to the goal that has been established by the caseworker, parents, and child when appropriate. These activities shall be reviewed and recorded at periodic intervals -- every three months for the first six months and every six months thereafter. It is the goal of this process to return the child home as soon as possible. If the natural parents demonstrate no movement in keeping their commitments to improve conditions to allow the child's return, consideration shall be given to permanent planning.

VII. All children going into non-emergency placement shall have a prior physical examination by available medical personnel. In emergency placement, arrangements for an examination shall be made within 7 days of placement.

VIII. Prior to placement the caseworker shall collect as much information as possible regarding the child, his family background, and his medical history. To every extent possible, the caseworker shall give this information to the foster parents in a face-to-face meeting as soon as the information is collected.

IX. Caseworkers shall be encouraged to use the "team concept" when implementing treatment plans by regularly including the foster parents in the staffings (case conferences) on children in the foster home.

- X. The caseworker shall contact the foster home frequently during the first few weeks of placement and shall visit long-term placements every 4 months.
- XI. Foster parents and agency personnel shall make every effort to give 7 - 15 days notice to the other prior to termination of placement unless the child is in immediate physical danger or the placement is of a voluntary or short-term nature

C. CASE RECORDING

Problem

Case records contain non-essential recording and extraneous materials that obscure the purpose of case recording. There is a tendency to file information in the record regardless of its relevance to the case plan.

Recommendations

- I. The Division shall adopt a policy which establishes that the primary purpose of a case record is a tool for developing and following through on clearly defined case plans.
- II. By July, 1978 the Division of Social Services shall establish a statewide policy of case recording paying particular attention to standardizing and streamlining the material contained in a case record.
- III. By July, 1978 a brief summary of the established case recording policy shall be included in the Caseworker Manual. After completion of the manual, the Division shall conduct statewide staff training on the implementation of newly established case recording techniques.
- IV. Case records shall contain, but not be limited to:
 - A. The agreement or court order which places the child in the custody of the State;
 - B. Justification for the State's holding legal custody;
 - C. Documentation of client eligibility for services;
 - D. Relevant material provided by the foster parents;
 - E. Financial agreements and arrangements;
 - F. The diagnosis, decisions and the plans established during the initial 30 days of case involvement; and
 - G. Documentation of on-going case plan as delineated under Recommendation VI of Treatment Planning.
- V. The Division's Central Office shall develop a workable face sheet to be used in all case records.
- VI. The Division's Central Office shall review and update the forms used in case records. In particular the foster parent agreement form shall include what foster parents can expect of

the agency. The natural parent voluntary consent form shall delineate the responsibilities of both the parents and the agency.

- VII. The Division's Central Office shall provide foster parents with a checklist type form on which to record observations about the child.

D. STAFF

Problem

- I. The number of caseworkers authorized for the Division is not sufficient to provide adequate service to foster children and their families.
- II. Foster care resources have not been adequately developed because the responsibility for providing these resources has been divided among staff with other, higher priority assignments.

Recommendations

- I. Each region shall designate a specified person or persons whose responsibilities include:
 - A. Recruitment of foster homes ensuring reflection of regions cultural diversity;
 - B. Licensing, monitoring, and enforcement of licensing regulations and standards, as set forth by the Department of Health and Social Services;
 - C. Education of the communities within the regions regarding the need for foster care services and for improving current delivery;
 - D. Orientation and training of foster parents with a particular emphasis on increasing the awareness of foster parents to cultural diversity and the special needs of children under their care;
 - E. Encouraging the development and growth of Foster Parent Associations; and
 - F. Coordinating efforts with other public and private agencies providing foster care.
- II. Central Office and Regional Office staff must ensure that this position is preserved and not watered down over time with additional duties unrelated to foster care development.
- III. By July, 1978 the Division shall identify current case load levels carried by direct service staff, develop a weighting system for assigning relative weights to tasks performed by direct service staff, and develop standards for work load assignment to individual direct service staff.

- IV. By July, 1980 there shall be adequate staff to ensure that case loads will not exceed the tasks represented by a maximum average of 35 foster children and their families. The achievement of this goal requires the support of the public and their elected officials to appropriate the necessary funds.

E. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Problem

Communities are often not involved in helping to improve foster care programming. Additional community input is needed in the recruitment of foster homes and in advocacy efforts for foster children.

Recommendations

- I. By January, 1978 each Regional Manager within the Division shall formulate an advisory committee whose purposes will be to:
- A. Gather information on local foster care needs;
 - B. Organize recruitment efforts within regional communities; and
 - C. Advocate for changes in the foster care program on a regional basis.

The committee shall reflect the make-up of the communities within the region and shall include foster parents.

The foster care specialist shall be responsible to the committee for reporting the results of committee recruitment efforts and for keeping the committee informed about current foster care policies, practices, and procedures of the Division.

- II. By January, 1978 a Statewide Advisory Committee shall be established. The Committee shall be composed of representatives from each of the six regional committees with an additional member appointed by the Director of the Division. The purpose of the Committee shall be to recommend improvements in foster family services. The Committee shall be representative of bush and urban people, Natives and non-Natives, consumers and providers, private agencies, and interested citizens.

Information and concerns generated by the regional committees shall be presented regularly to the Statewide Committee. The State Committee shall write an annual report, which shall make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and/or the Department for improvements needed within the foster care system.

F. RECRUITING NATIVE FOSTER HOMES

Problem

There is a deficiency in the number of Native foster homes in both rural and urban areas.

Recommendations

- I. By January, 1978 each regional and field office managers shall develop a local plan for appropriate Division action regarding the recruitment of Native foster homes.
- II. The Division shall recognize the Native organizations as valuable resources for the recruitment of Native foster families.
- III. Safety and health requirements shall reflect community standards.
- IV. Physical standards for the foster home shall be set according to individual living standards for the community in which the foster home is located.

Alternatives/Suggestions For Implementation

- I. Consideration be given to monitoring bush foster homes by Social Service Associates and/or by public health nurses on agreement with the Division.
- II. The following methods be implemented in the recruitment of native foster homes:
 - A. Audio-visual methods, booklets, T.V.;
 - B. Contacts with local public and private agencies; and
 - C. Public health nurses.

G. RECOGNITION OF FOSTER PARENTS

Problem

The foster care system does not sufficiently recognize foster parents as invaluable resources.

Recommendation

- I. The Division shall seek opportunities to recognize foster parents as informed, caring citizens who are concerned with improving conditions for Alaska's foster children.

H. FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

Problem

Foster parents receive little, if any, initial orientation to the foster family services program or on-going training to enhance their abilities to parent foster children.

Recommendations

- I. By January, 1978 foster parents shall be provided with an initial orientation which utilizes the Foster Parent Handbook as a guide.
- II. By January, 1978 the Division shall provide periodic (every 6 month minimum) training to foster parents.
- III. The curriculum used to provide periodic training shall be developed regionally through the combined efforts of the foster care specialist, foster care workers, and foster parents.
- IV. The training curriculum shall include but not be limited to the following areas:
 - A. Sensitivity to issues of cultural diversity;
 - B. Effects of separation and loss on foster children and foster parents;
 - C. How to work with:
 - (1) children from drinking families,
 - (2) children who drink,
 - (3) children who have been abused,
 - (4) the incest victim, and
 - (5) the natural parents;
 - D. The role of foster parents;
 - E. The effect visiting natural parents has on the foster child; and
 - F. The legal rights and responsibilities of the agency, foster parents, natural parents, and child.
- V. In addition to classroom-type training, the Division shall publish a quarterly newsletter containing news articles and articles about problems of and techniques for foster parenting. Foster parent contributions and suggestions shall be encouraged. The newsletter shall contain information on foster parent association activities such as meeting notices, and the names and phone numbers of foster parent association contact persons.
- VI. By September, 1977 a policy shall be adopted that provides Division help in covering expenses for selected foster parents and staff to attend national educational conferences, such as the conference sponsored by the National Association of Foster Parents.

- VII. By January, 1978 the Division shall provide to foster parents a foster family care resource library in every region. The library shall contain pamphlets, books, audio-visual aids, and other training resources, as well as copies of State statutes relating to foster care.
- VIII. The Division by January, 1978 shall establish a buddy system where all new foster parents are assigned to an experienced foster parent who can provide them with personal support, general information, and information about foster parent association activities.

Alternatives/Suggestions For Implementation

- I. Consideration should be given to the Central Office establishing a statewide training plan for foster parents that includes:
- A. Utilization of foster parents association for the provision of foster care training; and
 - B. Reimbursement to foster parents for course work relating to child care and child development.
- II. The Division consider assuming responsibility for providing training to all licensed foster parents, including those foster parents working through other agencies.

I. MANUALS

Problem

There are no manuals for foster parents, natural parents, or foster care workers involved with the Division of Social Services.

Recommendation

The Task Force approves of the direction the Division has taken with respect to developing manuals for foster family care and urges the continuation of this effort so that the following manuals are provided by January 1, 1978:

- A. A manual for foster parents that addresses their concerns (see Appendix C).
- B. A manual for natural parents of children in foster care (see Appendix C).
- C. A manual on foster family care services for Division staff.

Alternatives/Suggestions For Implementation

- I. In developing manuals the Division may wish to consider research in manuals produced by other states, and soliciting input from foster parents, foster care workers, and caseworkers within the Division.

J. LIABILITY INSURANCE

Problem

In accepting foster children into their homes, foster parents are vulnerable to legal actions against them because of:

- A. Damage to the property of others resulting from actions of the foster child;
- B. Injury to the foster child by his own act, or by an act of another person; or
- C. Allegations that harm has resulted from their parenting (for example, allegations of alienation of affections or malpractice).

Foster parents are liable both for the costs of defending themselves and for the costs of any judgment entered against them.

Although some coverage is available through automobile insurance for risks involved in a foster child operating a motor vehicle with the permission of the foster parents, virtually no other coverage is available through insurance. Liability insurance available to foster parents in other states is not available in Alaska.

Recommendation

The Department of Health and Social Services shall recommend to the 1978 legislature that Alaska statutes be amended to include all licensed foster parents under the State's general liability insurance policy.

Alternatives/Suggestions for Implementation

- I. Consideration be given to amending AS 47.10.230 so that all licensed foster parents are covered as though they were state employees.
- II. If it is not possible to include foster parents accepting children from private agencies in amended state statutes, consideration be given to the Division of Social Services requiring private child placing agencies, as of condition for receiving a license, to include coverage of foster parents associated with the agency in liability insurance policies carried by the private agency if that coverage is attainable by private foster care agencies.

K. SUPPORT OF FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS

Problem

Foster parent associations are an effective means to strengthen the foster family services system but are undeveloped in Alaska.

Recommendation

The Division of Social Services shall demonstrate its firm support of and cooperation with foster parent associations.

Alternatives/Suggestions For Implementation

- I. As part of his/her assigned duties, the foster care specialist in every region of the Division shall provide start-up assistance through encouragement, consultation, and materials (for example provide copies of Leadership Training Manual for Foster Parent Associations) for foster parent associations.
- II. The Division shall seek the advise and assistance of foster parent associations in recruitment, training, and retention of foster parents; the development of agency plans for foster family care services; and the development of fair hearing procedures for foster parents.
- III. The Division shall encourage its staff at all levels to participate when appropriate in foster parent association activities including paid membership in these associations.
- IV. The Division shall provide the names of active foster parents to foster parent associations. For a regional association, the names provided would be for that region only. For the state association, the names of all foster parents would be provided. If the Division cannot legally provide foster parent names to the associations, the Division shall assign one of its staff in each region to notify and encourage all foster parents to attend and participate in association activities.
- V. Regional and field offices of the Division shall include foster parents association representatives in appropriate professional and community meetings; further that the Central Office of the Division shall include association representatives as appropriate in program and budget presentations before boards, state legislature committees, and other policy making and governing bodies.
- VI. As foster parent associations develop into autonomous organizations legally capable of entering into contracts, the Division may purchase public relations, recruiting, and foster parent training services from them.
- VII. The Division shall provide information to its staff through manuals as well as other means concerning the existence, purpose, and benefits of foster parents associations; further that the staff shall be informed that although foster parents are encouraged to participate fully in association activities, no preference or penalty is assigned foster parents who become members of foster associations.

L. 24 HOUR AVAILABILITY TO FOSTER PARENTS

Problem

There is no statewide policy which mandates 24 hour availability of trained personnel to foster parents.

Recommendation

- I. Each region shall provide 24 hour availability of trained personnel to foster parents by January, 1978.

M. FOSTER CARE RATES

Problem

Foster parents caring for children in custody of the Division of Social Services should be reimbursed for maintaining the child at costs related to the most accurate and current data available. Reimbursement rates should be sufficient to cover costs for special expenditures, for example, musical instruments and lessons, recreational equipment, and costs related to scouting, etc.

Recommendations

- I. The reimbursement rates shall continue to reflect differential payments for the age of the child and the geographic location of the foster home.
- II. Groupings according to age shall be changed to allow increases at 5 years of age and at 12 years to coincide with the foster child's entry into school at 5 and entry into junior high at 12. The age groupings shall be:
 - A. 4 years and under;
 - B. 5 to 11 years; and
 - C. 12 years and older.
- III. Beginning in 1977 the Division of Social Services and the Quality Control/Collection Agency of the Department of Health and Social Services shall annually calculate foster home reimbursement rates using the method developed by the University of Delaware in their 1975 study Understanding And Measuring The Cost Of Foster Care with modifications.

The University of Delaware study provides the best current method for measuring the direct out-of-pocket costs of foster care. Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture tables used in the Delaware method do not include Alaska. To compensate for this gap, the Delaware method can be used to calculate foster care costs for Seattle (West/Urban). Using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indexes of comparative costs among U.S. cities for a 4-person family, Seattle costs can be

translated into costs for Anchorage. The resulting figures can be adjusted to current prices to take into consideration the rise in the consumer price index.

- IV. In determining the direct out-of-pockets cost of foster care according to the modified Delaware method the average of the costs from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Low-Cost and Moderate Cost Plans shall be used and the resulting figures shall be adjusted to reflect the Consumer Price Index as of July of each year. The figures as adjusted for July of each year shall be the basis for the Division's budget request for foster care rates effective beginning in July of the following year.

The material in Appendix D illustrates the use of the modified Delaware method to produce a comparison between foster care rates currently paid in Anchorage and those rates calculated according to the average of the USDA Low-Cost and Moderate Cost Plans adjusted to April, 1977 prices.

- V. With respect to handicapped foster children, Division caseworkers by September, 1977 shall take the initiative and ensure that foster parents caring for these children receive an augmented foster home rate.

In determining the amount of the augmented rate, the process shall focus on the costs of providing the appropriate care and services to the handicapped foster child and avoid unnecessary inquiry into the foster family's budgeting practices or spending patterns.

N. FOSTER CARE RATES FOR RELATIVES

Problem

Relatives who provide foster care services to a related child are not reimbursed under foster care rates. Instead, they receive AFDC payment for care of a related child. This payment is considerably less than foster care rates.

Recommendations

- I. By September, 1977 the Division shall modify or change its practice to allow relatives to receive foster care rates if those homes meet the minimum foster care licensing regulations and if there is adequate justification for continued Division involvement with the child.
- II. The caseworker placing the child in the relative's home shall inform the relatives of the option to receive foster care rates if they meet licensing regulations.

Alternatives/Suggestions For Implementation

- I. The Division may wish to consider certifying these homes utilizing the same licensing regulations as non-related foster homes and reimbursing the homes at current foster care rates.
- II. Further, the Division may wish to consider amending AS 47.35.080, "Definitions," to add after "not related by blood or marriage to the foster parents unless such children are in the custody of the Department and most appropriately placed by the Department in the home of a relative".

O. SPECIAL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Problem

Foster parents may be without funds to provide appropriate maintenance and care for foster children during the first month following the initial placement; during any month when reimbursement payments are delayed; or when special needs occur. The present system for providing payment for unusual expenses is cumbersome and time consuming.

Recommendations

- I. The Division is encouraged to continue in the direction of streamlining the billing and reimbursement process so that payments are made within the shortest time possible.
- II. Beginning September, 1977 the Division shall allocate to each region funds to cover special or unusual expenses for foster children. These funds are to be administered by the Regional Social Services Manager.
- III. Beginning September, 1977 the clothing allowance of \$150 which is currently a one time allotment shall be renewable at the discretion of the Regional Social Services Manager.

P. LICENSING

Problem

There is confusion about the responsibility of the Division of Social Services in regard to supervision of foster homes licensed by the Division of Social Services but used by other public and private agencies.

Recommendations

- I. By June, 1978 AS 47.35.010 shall be amended deleting the word "may license" and stating that the Department "shall license".

II. Private Agencies.

- A. By January, 1978 all private agencies who provide a foster family program and place children in foster homes shall have a child placement agency license as is currently required by AS 47.35.100.
- B. The Department shall by January, 1978 promulgate regulations which must be met in order to obtain such a license. Such regulations shall assure that the applying agency has the capability to supervise adequately the performance of those homes.
- C. The Department shall also provide technical assistance to the agencies who wish to meet regulations for licensure.

III. Public Agencies.

- A. By June, 1978 amend AS 47.35.040 to additionally state that "When Department of Health and Social Services licenses a foster home for another state or federal agency's use, that agency shall be responsible for the study and supervision of its homes in accordance with the Department licensing regulations".
- B. By June, 1978 further amend AS 47.35.040 to additionally state that "When the state or federal agency placing children in the homes does not provide the study and supervision of its homes in accordance with Division of Social Services' regulations, that state or federal agency shall adequately compensate the Department for the costs incurred by the Department in providing the study and supervision of these homes."

Alternative Recommendation

The Department of Health and Social Services may wish to amend AS 47.35.040 to allow the Department to license other departments to license their own foster and boarding homes. Such a decision would require additional regulations relating to the other departments' capability to license, supervise, and be responsible for their own foster or boarding homes.

Q. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

Problem

Conflicts have arisen among foster care agencies over the jurisdiction, responsibility, and payments to foster homes and boarding homes.

Recommendations

- I. Foster homes and boarding homes shall be studied, annually reviewed, and supervised by the agency who initially contacts the family with the intention of having the home licensed if found to be appropriate.

This agency shall be referred to as the primary agency .

II. The primary agency is responsible for:

- A. Supervising all primary agency placements in the home;
- B. Authorizing other agencies to make placements in the home;
and
- C. Assuring the compatability of the needs of all foster children in the home.

III. Other agencies wishing to place a child in a home studied by the primary agency shall:

- A. Contact that primary agency and request permission to make the placement;
- B. Provide placement supervision; and
- C. Respect the primary agency's right to decline a placement request.

IV. Cost of care payment shall rest with the agency responsible for the placement.

V. Since the Department through the Division of Social Services holds final authority to license, it is further recommended that the Division of Social Services assume responsibility by January, 1978 for initiating and institutionalizing a process that clearly delineates the above expectations of inter-agency cooperation.

CONCLUSION

BY

BEVERLY STUBBEE

AMERICAN PUBLIC WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Early in 1976, Sam Granato, Director of the Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and Social Services, requested the assistance and consultation of the American Public Welfare Association and the Children's Bureau in an assessment of Alaska's foster family services system. Mr. Granato recognized that Alaska (like all other states) was facing problems in developing the best kind of system to deal with children and their families who came to the attention of the state agency. Although Alaska differs from "the lower 48" in many respects, certain common values must be maintained and preserved in relation to families and children if we are to consider ourselves "one nation".

Mr. Granato viewed APWA's Standards for Foster Family Services Systems as a document which expressed some of those common values, and requested our assistance in utilizing the standards as a tool for measuring the Alaska System. Some of the standards were of particular concern: (1) foster home licensing requirements; (2) recruitment, selection, development and retention of foster families; (3) purchase of services; (4) prevention of separation and development of alternatives to placement; (5) rights of natural parents and children and (6) special standards for Native American children and their families.

A Task Force was selected to perform the work of assessing the program and making recommendations for change. It was chosen from throughout the state, from both Division staff and from outside agencies and organizations. Foster parents were well represented and all who served on the Task Force were genuinely concerned. In spite of the difficulties in meeting together in one place, they have worked long and hard over the past year in gathering information, organizing it, discussing it thoroughly, and developing the recommendations which they feel will improve Alaska's system.

I am pleased with the issues that the Task Force members have exposed and their thoughtful recommendations. It is promising that the Task Force has particularly recognized the wisdom of more community involvement, the need for more intensive recruitment of Native foster homes, and the vital importance of the involvement of the natural parents and foster parents in the formulation, modification, and achievement of plan for the child.

It is my hope that this report, combined with those of other Division Task Forces and outside studies of the management system, will result in guidelines for change that will be endorsed and supported by all citizens of Alaska who are concerned about its children. As our democratic system is vitalized by a strong citizenry, the strength of the citizenry comes out of its successful influence on governmental activities which directly affect its well being. The private citizens and public servants who have jointly prepared this report have done so with the expectation that their efforts will prove productive. APWA congratulates them and looks forward to positive changes as a result of their good work.

APPENDIX

- A. LETTER OF APPOINTMENT
- B. METHODOLOGY
- C. CONTENTS OF MANUALS FOR FOSTER PARENTS
AND NATURAL PARENTS
- D. CALCULATING FOSTER CARE RATES USING
MODIFIED DELAWARE METHOD FOR APRIL, 1977

APPENDIX A

Letter of Appointment

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

Pouch H-05, Juneau, Alaska 99811

August 1, 1977

This letter is to request your participation as a member of the "Task Force on Foster Family Services" being established by the Division of Social Services, Department of Health and Social Services.

As you may be aware, the Child Welfare League of America, Inc., completed a survey of foster care services in Alaska in June 1975 and made many recommendations for improvement of the program operated by the Division of Social Services. In addition, the American Public Welfare Association (APWA) in conjunction with the U.S. Children's Bureau of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, has developed a set of "Standards for Foster Family Services Systems with guidelines for implementation specifically related to public agencies" which is a useful tool for evaluating the foster care services program of the Division. Both documents offer a challenge for development of a foster care services program of high quality.

In acceptance of this challenge, I am establishing a "Task Force on Foster Family Services" to review these two documents in relation to the foster care program of the Division, and to make recommendations to me for improvement of the program. Ms. Beatrice L. Garrett, Foster Family Specialist, U.S. Children's Bureau; Ms. Beverly Stubbee, Foster Care Specialist, American Public Welfare Association; and, Ms. Enid Welling, Field Representative, Social Rehabilitation Service, DHEW have agreed to serve as consultants to the Task Force.

Specifically, the charge to the Task Force is as follows:

1. To evaluate the foster care services program of the Division of Social Services in relation to the March 1975 "Standards for Foster Family Services Systems....." prepared by the American Public Welfare Association with the U.S. Children's Bureau, taking into account the survey report, "Foster Care Services" prepared by the Child Welfare League of America, and to make recommendations for improving the program. Particular attention is to be given to
 - (a) foster home licensing standards, processes and enforcement,
 - (b) recruitment, selection, development and retention of foster

- families, (c) prevention of separation and development of alternatives to placement, and (d) purchase of service; other areas to be studied include, the legal base, budget, physical facilities and equipment, community leadership and education of the public, citizen participation, rights of natural parents and children, special standards for Native American children and their families, statistics and reporting, periodic review and assessment of foster care services, research, manual and guide materials, case recording, staffing, volunteer services, differential diagnostic decision and service planning, and services to parents and children;
2. to review the full-cost-of-service provisions of AS 47.40.010-47.40.080 as they relate to foster family care and make recommendations regarding statute amendment, and payment rates;
 3. to review the present foster home licensing regulations and make any appropriate recommendations for revision;

The Task Force will be requested to present a formal written report to me describing the procedures undertaken in making its study; the conclusions reached and recommendations made; the basis underlying each recommendation and options considered. A timetable will be established during the early phases of the Task Force's deliberations.

All Task Force meetings will be held in Anchorage as the most convenient location, and your travel and hotel expenses incurred in attending meetings will, if necessary, be reimbursed by the Division.

The first meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for August 31 and September 1. If you accept this invitation, and I hope you will, please contact Mr. Ed Smith in my office at 465-3208 (collect) as soon as possible, so that materials can be mailed to you before the first meeting. Mr. Smith will inform you of the time and place for the first meeting and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sam J. Granato
Director

APPENDIX B

Methodology

The full Task Force met as a group three times: in 1976 on August 31 and September 1 and November 9-10, and on May 24-25 in 1977. The first meeting included orientation to the task, organizing sub-groups in six regions of the state with assignments of specific study responsibility for each, and reviewing resource material. The Task Force in November discussed the reports of the regional committees, formulated additional study responsibilities for the regional committees, and appointed from its membership a 15 person Steering Council. This Council, representative of the six regional committees, met on February 3 and March 31 to consolidate the findings and recommendations of the six regional committees. A writing team met on April 17-18 to draft recommendations for consideration of the total Task Force membership. In the May meeting of the Task Force an in-depth review of the draft report brought forth extensive changes in the recommendations. The Task Force delegated to the writing team the responsibility of incorporating these changes and developing the Task Force's final report. An additional meeting of the writing team on June 15-16 produced the final report.

Consultation to the Task Force was provided by Beatrice Garrett prior to her retirement from the U.S. Children's Bureau, Enid Welling and John Downey of the Department of Health, Education & Welfare, Region X, and by Beverly Stubbee of the American Public Welfare Association. Ms. Welling performed an invaluable service by completing a review of case recording in the Anchorage office of the Division, and in assisting the Task Force to address issues related to treatment planning and recording.

By using "Standards for Foster Family Services Systems with Guidelines for Implementation Specifically Related to Public Agencies" published by the American Public Welfare Association in March 1975, the Task Force assured itself of a comprehensive review of the entire gamut of issues related to foster care services program of the Division.

In the assessment process the Task Force consulted with, among others, the National Foster Parents Association, the University of Delaware, and the New Jersey Department of Institution and Agencies. Management information systems from Oklahoma and Nevada were studied. Also the literature was reviewed with particular reference to periodic case review systems as means of avoiding foster children remaining adrift in foster care. In addition, the Task Force reviewed the relevant Alaska statutes, patterns of foster care reimbursement payment to Alaska foster parents since 1971, and completed a review of the Division's implementation of recommendations contained in "Survey of the Foster Care Services of the State of Alaska" by the Child Welfare League of America in June, 1975.

The activities of the regional committees were equally extensive emphasizing the gathering of information and opinions from direct service personnel employed by federal, state and local governmental agencies as well as by private agencies, from foster parents, citizen leaders and the general public. In Anchorage, 23 foster parents were interviewed to gather their responses to a questionnaire on licensing, recruitment, training, reimbursement, and suggestion for improving service. Also in Anchorage, the Task Force committee interviewed administrators of eight

agencies with foster family care programs. In Fairbanks, a full and complete Handbook for Foster Parents was written. The Handbook was prepared for foster parents of the Division and reflects research conducted into similar handbooks currently in use in twelve other states.

Persons serving on the regional committees included the following:

Anchorage

Trish Adkins, Hope Cottage
Peggy Bergsrud, Foster Parent
Sally Booher, Alaska Children's Services
Ella Craig, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bonnie Darnell, Foster Parent
Bob Gin, Action Group for the Deaf
Faye Guthrie, Division of Social Services
Patricia Hermes, Division of Social Services
Sister Mary Clare, Catholic Social Services
Melissa Middleton, Family Connection
Barbara Pighin, Cook Inlet Native Association
Martha Rasmussen, Anchorage Health Department
Louise Rodani, Foster Parent
Honorable Lisa Rudd, State Representative
Carla Strand, Division of Corrections
Miriam Summer, Foster Parent
Dee Walters, Cook Inlet Native Association

Bethel

Frank Barthel, Attorney
Pauline Carner, Foster Parent
Ceclia Esparza, Division of Social Services
Elizabeth Evans, Foster Parent
Brent Ewell, Division of Social Services
Alison Greer, Division of Social Services
Sig Knudsen, REAA
Dick Marchant, Public Health Service
Linda Marchant, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Myrtle Miller, Foster Parent
Michael Price, Division of Social Services
Mildred Short, Foster Parent
Bruce Steadman, Division of Social Services
Richard Wisecarver, Foster Parent

Fairbanks

Judy Aswell, Citizen
Ted Drahn, University of Alaska
Carole Drake, Tanana Chiefs Conference
Pat Gamble, Student
Mary Globig, Division of Social Services
Honorable Glenn Hackney, State Senator
Clara Johnson, Fairbanks Native Association
Joan Klemann, Foster Parent
Karen Kowalski, Division of Social Services
Dr. Martha Kowalski, Tanana Clinic
Etta Lord, Foster Parent
Bill Muehlenkamp, Foster Parent
Phil Nicpon, Division of Public Health

Pat Rogers, Fairbanks Health Center
Teresa Schloesser, Foster Child
Joanne Shayne, University of Alaska
Lt. Col. Nancy Smith, Fort Wainwright
Paul Unrub, Hospitality House

Juneau

Connie Hansen, Division of Social Services
Mildred Richards, Foster Parent
DeeAnn Schofield, Division of Social Services

Ketchikan

Mildred Berry, Ketchikan Health Center
Eleanor Booth, Division of Public Assistance
Eloise Cariveau, Tlingit and Haida Council
Bob Collins, Division of Corrections
Ray Hackstock, Ketchikan Police Department
Arlene Jones, Gateway Alcoholic Center
Jim Green, Revilla High School
Dan Maciak, Division of Social Services
Mr. Markshefful, Schoenbar Junior High School
Nik Nebl, Ketchikan Teen Home
Drew Peterson, Attorney
Alicia Roberts, Division of Public Assistance
Phyllis Smith, Valley Park Elementary School
Marion L. Swain, Division of Social Services
Patricia Tennant, Foster Parent
Jack Thomas, Alaska Native Health Clinic
Terry Wolfe, Gateway Mental Health Center

Nome

Jann Sabo, Division of Social Services
Jeanette Fox, Foster Parent

APPENDIX C

Contents of Manuals For Foster Parents and Natural Parents

The manual for foster parents should include but not be limited to the following:

- A. National Foster Parents Association Code of Ethics.
- B. What Is Foster Care?
- C. Why Do Children Need Foster Care.
- D. How Do Children Come Into the Custody of the Division of Social Services.
- E. Becoming a Foster Parent.

- Recruitment
 - Inquiry
 - Basic Requirements
 - Application
 - Foster Home Study
 - The License
 - The Identification Card
 - The Annual Review

- F. The Teamwork Concept - Responsibilities.

- Responsibilities of the Social Worker/Agency
 - Responsibilities of the Foster Parents
 - Responsibilities of the Natural Parents

- G. The Teamwork Concept - Rights.

- The Social Worker/Agency Has the Right To:
 - The Foster Parents Have the Right To:
 - The Natural Parents Have the Right To:
 - The Child Has the Right To:

- H. The Placement Procedure.

- Selection of the Foster Home
 - The Foster Home Placement Agreement

- I. When the Child Comes.

- Receive the Child Quietly
 - Respect His Feeling for the Past
 - Respect His Loyalty to His Own Home
 - Avoid Frustrations
 - Impose Standards Gradually
 - Let Him Know What to Call You
 - Understand Separation

- J. What Separation Does to a Child.

- Stage I Shock
 - Stage II Protest

Stage III Despair
Stage IV Detachment
General Observations

K. Living With The Foster Child.

Allowances
Babysitters
The Child's Story
Clothing
Complaints from the Community
Discipline
Driving
Employment
Gifts
Income Tax
Out of Town Trips
Personal Property
Religious Training
School

L. Medical Care

The States Responsibility
Prior Resources
Medicaid Coupons
When the Foster Child is Out of State
Dental Coverage
Special Medical Needs
Shots
Medical Records

M. Foster Care Payment.

Standard Regional Rates
Rates for Handicapped Children
Rates for Runaways
Rates for Children Temporarily Hospitalized
Instructions for Billing the State

N. Liability.

O. Confidentiality.

Responsibilities of the Social Worker
Responsibilities of the Foster Parents

P. Keeping Records

Medical
Behavioral
Developmental

Q. Moving with a Foster Child.

A Local Move
A Move to Another Area of the State

A Move to Another State

R. Death of a Foster Child.

Responsibility of the Social Worker
Responsibility of Biological Parents
Rights of the Foster Parents
Payment for Burial

S. Emergencies.

T. Foster Child's Contacts with His Family.

U. Adoption of a Foster Child By Foster Parents.

V. Subsidized Adoption.

W. Effect on Your Own Family.

X. When the Foster Child Leaves.

Y. Appendix.

Important Names and Numbers - Foster Parents Association
Reading List
Sample Child Care Invoice

The manual for natural parents of children in foster care should include but not be limited to the following areas:

- A. Statement of Agency Philosophy in regard to the usage of foster care services;
- B. Definition of Foster Care;
- C. Explanation of the process by which children come into the custody of the Division of Social Services;
- D. The Rights of Natural Parents;

The Rights of the Child;
The Rights of the Foster Parents;
The Rights of the Agency;

- E. The Responsibilities of Natural Parents;

The Responsibilities of Foster Parents;
The Responsibilities of the Agency;

- F. Agency expectations of natural parent; and
- G. Definition of legal terms.

APPENDIX D

Calculating Foster Care Rates Using Modified Delaware Method For April, 1977

Table 1 follows the Delaware method for calculating costs per child in Seattle, Washington in 1970. Please refer to Chapter 5, "Understanding and Measuring the Cost of Foster Care", University of Delaware, 1975.

TABLE 1
ANNUAL COSTS PER CHILD
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 1970

Age	U.S.D.A. Low-Cost Plan	U.S.D.A. Moderate Cost Plan	Average Of Low-Cost & Moderate Cost Plans
4 & Under	\$1217	\$1715	\$1466
5 Thru 11	1310	1932	1621
12 Thru 17	1550	2323	1937

Table 2 uses U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Indexes of Comparative Costs on a Intermediate Budget for a 4-Person Family (please see page 41) to translate the costs per child for Seattle in 1970 to costs in Anchorage for the same year.

TABLE 2
ANNUAL COSTS PER CHILD
SEATTLE AND ANCHORAGE, 1970

Age	Average Costs Per Child Seattle, 1970	Factor ¹	Average Costs Per Child Anchorage, 1970
4 & Under	\$1466	1.32	\$1935
5 Thru 11	1621	1.32	2140
12 Thru 17	1937	1.32	2557

1. The BLS Indexes of Comparative Costs (see page 41) shows the Seattle index at 103 and the Anchorage index at 136; 136 is 1.32 times greater than 103.

Using Consumer Price Indexes, Table 3 translates the average costs per child in 1970 to the average costs per child in April, 1977 in Anchorage.

TABLE 3
ANCHORAGE
ANNUAL COSTS PER CHILD
1970 AND APRIL, 1977

Age	Costs Per Child 1970	Increase CPI 2	Costs Per Child April, 1977
4 & Under	\$1935	1.548	\$2995
5 Thru 11	2140	1.548	3313
12 Thru 17	2557	1.548	3958

2. The Consumer Price Index for Anchorage in October, 1970 was 111.5 and in April, 1977 was 172.6; 172.6 is 1.548 times greater than 111.5.

Table 4 shows the foster family care rates paid currently in Anchorage by the Division of Social Services and the costs per child calculated by the modified Delaware method updated to April, 1977 prices for Anchorage.

TABLE 4
COMPARISON FOR ANCHORAGE
OF
FOSTER FAMILY REIMBURSEMENT RATES
AND
COSTS PER CHILD USING MODIFIED DELAWARE METHOD

Foster Family Rates (Effective July, 1977)			Costs Per Child Modified Delaware Method (April, 1977)		
Age	Annual	Monthly	Age	Annual	Monthly
5 & Under	\$2736	\$228	4 & Under	\$2995	\$250
6 Thru 12	3288	274	5 Thru 11	3313	276
13 & Over	3840	320	12 Thru 17	3958	330

Indexes of Comparative Costs Based on an Intermediate Budget for a 4-Person Family,¹ Spring 1970

[U.S. urban average cost=100]

Area	Total budget	Cost of family consumption							Personal income taxes
		Total	Food	Housing ²	Transportation ³	Clothing and personal care	Medical care ⁴	Other family consumption	
Urban United States.....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Metropolitan areas ⁵	103	102	102	103	100	101	103	103	102
Nonmetropolitan areas ⁶	90	90	90	88	98	94	88	83	84
Northeast:									
Boston, Mass.....	113	111	108	128	103	103	100	106	128
Buffalo, N.Y.....	107	106	106	106	110	102	91	104	114
Hartford, Conn.....	109	111	111	117	112	105	96	111	102
Lancaster, Pa.....	97	97	103	93	102	96	91	95	91
New York-Northeastern N.J.....	114	112	114	123	95	101	106	109	130
Philadelphia, Pa.-N.J.....	102	101	108	96	96	98	98	104	107
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	96	97	103	89	106	97	87	102	92
Portland, Maine.....	102	103	106	98	106	106	98	109	93
Nonmetropolitan areas ⁶	98	98	101	100	102	93	89	86	96
North Central:									
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.....	100	99	92	102	104	105	92	100	108
Champaign-Urbana, Ill.....	102	103	97	111	104	102	99	100	97
Chicago, Ill.-Northwestern Ind.....	104	105	101	111	105	103	105	103	105
Cincinnati, Ohio-Ky.-Ind.....	98	97	97	95	101	100	93	103	91
Cleveland, Ohio.....	105	106	101	114	102	106	99	106	103
Dayton, Ohio.....	95	96	96	90	99	103	88	103	88
Detroit, Mich.....	99	99	102	94	99	102	99	101	100
Green Bay, Wis.....	99	96	91	98	100	101	99	104	101
Indianapolis, Ind.....	102	103	99	105	109	101	99	104	116
Kansas City, Mo.-Kans.....	99	100	100	97	102	103	98	104	101
Milwaukee, Wis.....	107	103	93	116	99	104	98	102	98
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.....	102	99	96	98	103	104	96	103	131
St. Louis, Mo.-Ill.....	99	99	102	98	103	99	95	100	96
Wichita, Kans.....	95	93	95	95	97	95	96	96	90
Nonmetropolitan areas ⁶	92	93	92	94	99	95	84	83	89
South:									
Atlanta, Ga.....	89	90	93	79	97	97	93	102	80
Austin, Tex.....	86	86	90	74	99	96	96	100	70
Baltimore, Md.....	99	97	98	89	101	102	103	102	114
Baton Rouge, La.....	91	93	98	82	102	96	90	96	79
Dallas, Tex.....	93	93	93	88	99	98	120	104	79
Durham, N.C.....	96	94	92	92	94	97	102	101	106
Houston, Tex.....	90	93	94	81	104	95	107	99	73
Nashville, Tenn.....	91	93	91	89	100	95	89	103	78
Orlando, Fla.....	89	91	99	85	93	92	101	101	74
Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.....	104	102	102	102	106	99	102	106	115
Nonmetropolitan areas ⁶	85	86	90	76	97	91	83	84	74
West:									
Bakersfield, Calif.....	94	93	95	85	103	99	118	95	84
Denver, Colo.....	97	97	94	94	102	108	98	99	94
Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif.....	101	101	97	99	99	106	126	100	96
San Diego, Calif.....	98	99	94	95	100	103	118	100	91
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.....	107	107	109	112	108	109	113	104	103
Seattle-Everett, Wash.....	103	103	103	104	104	109	112	104	94
Honolulu, Hawaii.....	120	118	118	123	116	103	105	108	156
Nonmetropolitan areas ⁶	93	92	92	89	96	103	91	83	95
Anchorage, Alaska.....	136	132	116	160	128	118	187	58	178

¹ The family consists of an employed husband, age 38, a wife not employed outside the home, an 8-year-old girl, and a 13-year-old boy.

² Housing includes shelter, household operations, and housefurnishings. The average costs of shelter are weighted by the following proportions: 23 percent for rental costs, 73 percent for homeowner costs.

³ The average costs of automobile owners and nonowners were weighted by the following proportions: Boston, Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia, 80 percent for owners, 20 percent for nonowners; Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington, with 1.4 million of population or more in 1960, 95 percent for automobile

owners, and 5 percent for nonowners; all other areas, 100 percent for automobile owners.

⁴ In total medical care, the average costs of medical insurance were weighted by the following proportions: 30 percent for families paying full cost of insurance; 28 percent for families paying half cost; 44 percent for families covered by noncontributory insurance plans (paid by employer).

⁵ As defined in 1960-61. For a detailed description see the 1967 edition of the *Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas*, prepared by the Bureau of the Budget.

⁶ Places with populations of 2,500 to 50,000.

⁷ Revised.

Source: Handbook of Labor Statistics, 1971, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Page 294.